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Description of a Method of Cultivating Peach Trees, with a view to prevent their premature decay; confirmed by the experience of Forty-five Years, in Delaware State and the western parts of Pennsylvania. By THOMAS COULTER, Esq. of Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

THE death of young peach trees is principally owing to planting, transplanting, and pruning *the same stock*, which occasions it to be open and tender, with a rough bark, in consequence of which insects lodge and breed in it, and birds search after them, whereby wounds are made, the gum exudes, and in a few years the tree is useless. To prevent this, transplant your trees as young as possible, if in the kernel it will be best, as there will then be no check of growth. Plant them sixteen feet apart. Plow and harrow between them, for two years, without regard to wounding them, but avoid tearing them up by the roots. In the month of March or April, in the third year after transplanting, cut them all off by the ground, plow and harrow among them as before, but with great care to avoid wounding or tearing them. Suffer all the sprouts or scions to grow, even if they should amount to half a dozen or more, they become bearing trees almost instantaneously on account of the strength of the root. Allow no animals but hogs to enter your orchard, for fear of their wounding the shoots, as a substance drains away through the least wound, which is essential to the health of the tree and the good quality of the fruit.

If the old stock is cut away the third year after transplanting, no more shoots will come to maturity than the old stump can support and nourish, the remainder will die before they bear fruit, and may be cut away, taking care not to wound any other stock. The sprouts when
loaded

loaded with fruit, will bend and rest on the ground in every direction for many years, all of them being rooted as if they had been planted, their stocks remaining tough and their bark smooth for twenty years and upwards. If any of the sprouts from the old stump should happen to split off and die, cut them away, they will be supplied from the ground by others, so that you may have trees from the same for 100 years as I believe. I have now trees from one to thirty-six years old, all from the same stump. Young trees formed in this manner will bear fruit the second year, but this fruit will not ripen so early as the fruit on the older trees from the same stump. Three years after the trees are cut off, the shoots will be sufficiently large and bushy to shade the ground so as to prevent the growth of grass that might injure the trees, therefore plowing will be useless and may be injurious by wounding them. It is also unnecessary to manure peach trees, as the fruit of manured trees is always smaller and inferior to that of trees which are not manured. By manuring you make the peach trees larger and apparently more flourishing, but their fruit will be of a bad kind, looking as green as the leaves, even when ripe, and later than that of trees which have not been manured. Peach trees never require a rich soil, the poorer the soil the better the fruit: a middling soil produces the most bountiful crop. The highest ground is the best for peach trees, and the north side of hills is most desirable, as it retards vegetation and prevents the destructive effects of late frosts, which occur in the month of April in Pennsylvania. Convinced by long experience of the truth of these observations, the author wishes they may be published for public benefit, and has been informed that Colonel Luther Martin and another gentleman, in the lower part of Maryland, have adopted a similar plan with great advantage.